



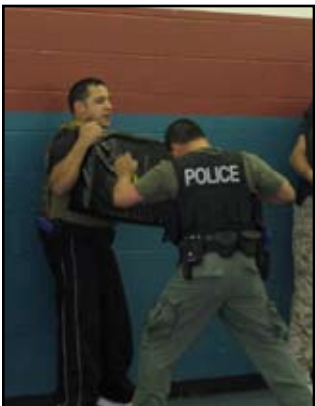
March 2009

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Primary Election Draws Near - March 21

By LaVerne Douglas

Tribal citizens will head for the polls Saturday, March 21 to cast their vote at the primary election.

With the days ticking away the candidates for governor have placed their candidate letters in the tribal newsletter trying to win support.

The following candidates will be placed on the ballot for the primary election. The executive committee candidates for governor are Scott Miller, George Blanchard, Anthony David Johnson, and Betty Mahardy Watson. The executive committee candidate for secretary is Michelle Lopez. The election committee candidate for deputy commissioner is Augustine Johnson; and the candidate for commission member #1 is Shirley Adkins.

There will be two polling sites. The first site will be located at the AST Police Department located at 2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr., in Shawnee on the AST Complex. The second site will be at the Little Axe Resource Center located at 1970 156th Ave. N.E. in Norman (Little Axe). The polls will be open from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Please come and vote for whom-ever you wish. Your vote will make a differ-

ence in shaping the tribes future. The top two governor candidates will be placed on the ballot in the runoff election in June.

BALLOT	
ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA PRIMARY ELECTION SATURDAY MARCH 21, 2009	
VOTING INSTRUCTIONS: Cast your vote by placing a [X] or [✓] mark in the box next to the candidate of your choice for each office.	
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE	
GOVERNOR	Scott Miller..... [] George Blanchard..... [] Anthony David Johnson..... [] Betty Mahardy Watson..... []
SECRETARY	Michelle Lopez..... []
ELECTION COMMISSION	
DEPUTY COMMISSIONER	Augustine Johnson..... []
COMMISSION MEMBER #1	Shirley Adkins..... []

**63rd Semi-Annual
General Council meeting
April 4th, 2009**

**10:00 A.M.
Tecumseh Square Center
Tecumseh, Oklahoma**

The General Council books will be ready on March 16th in the Secretary's office.

★ **VOTE
PRIMARY
ELECTION**
MARCH 21ST

The Offices of the

- Absentee Shawnee Tribe
- Little Axe Resource Center
- Little Axe Clinic
- AS Housing Authority
- Shawnee Pharmacy

will be closed on
Friday, April 10th
Good Friday



Scott Miller
Governor



Dan Little Axe Sr.
Lt. Governor



Michelle Lopez
Secretary



Anita Chisholm
Treasurer



Alecia Onzawah
Representative

March 2009

Governor Miller's Editorial

The Executive Committee continues to move forward with their Strategic Plan. Thus far we have created an Action Plan, reviewed a questionnaire previously used by the Tribe for stakeholder assessment, created a vision, mission and value statement for the Executive Committee. The community and departmental part of this process will take place through community and staff meetings, through questionnaires being sent to Tribal citizens and through the internet/email system (for those Tribal citizens who provide email addresses) to gather information and create a plan for the Tribe. This plan will assist the Tribe to aggressively move forward on developing short and long range plans for the Tribe and to meet the demand for greater accountability and good governance. Due to the heightened (sometimes staggering) uncertainty about our future and the ongoing concerns we face daily it is important to know that we have a plan in place to meet those challenges and you, our Tribal citizen, are an important piece of the puzzle.

In February we saw the groundbreaking for the new Joint Venture health clinic and after much discussion and review we completed the Joint Venture Construction Program agreement which outlines the planning, designing, constructing, equipping, leasing and operating of the clinic for the respective parties, Indian Health Service and the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

Once again the weather is flexing its strength by warming up and then cooling down never letting us forget that our Creator has this magnificent power. I and my family have had the good fortune of being well and enjoying the milder weekends.

This month the Treasurer, Anita Chisholm, I, Governor Miller and Representative Onzawah along with our IHS Self-Governance Director, Lesa Byford and Tax Commissioner, Les Cusher attended the Oklahoma Legislative Reception where we met with many other Tribal leaders and Senate and Representative staff on tribal concerns and issues. This was a productive and worthwhile event hosted by the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Committee and sponsored by several Tribes in Oklahoma.

Governor's Major Accomplishments for February:

- Ground breaking ceremony was held in Little Axe/ Norman area for clinic.
- Met Tribal leaders and Senate and House Representatives at Legislative Reception held in Oklahoma City.
- Met with Special Trustee on Indian Affairs and looked at increasing funding and utilizing non-expended funds in a

meaningful way for the Tribe.

- Held discussions with national Indian Health Service staff and concluded with signing the Joint Venture Construction Program agreement. This will be taken to Washington, D.C. and have signed by the national director, Robert 'Bob' McSwain.

- Attended BIA budget formulation meeting. This process needs to be evolved as it doesn't allow for 'true' Tribal consultation to occur instead its government directed.

Treasurer's Report

March 2009

On March 21, 2009, we will have an election for the Governor and Secretary's positions. I do hope each of you will vote and select the best person for the job. If you can't come in person please get an absentee ballot and vote. It is important that the Absentee Shawnee Tribe have good people in office. It is important that we have people that are elected to office that are committed and dedicated to serving in their positions 100% of their time and more. This means that the elected person comes to the Tribal complex and participates in all decision making everyday – all day. When you question the candidates, please make sure they are willing to quit their current job and serve in a 100% capacity. I personally believe that if we are elected to a Tribal office it is our duty to be and to serve the people of the tribe in the very best manner we can. That means doing our job at 100% and more. Check each candidates resume, their experience level, their ability to work together as a team and their personal references. The Indian community knows what each of the candidates stand for and what they do in their private lives outside of the job. Choose the best person possible who will work with the current leaders of the Tribe.

Since I first began serving as the Tribal Treasurer, I can truly say that I have enjoyed my position. I've enjoyed helping to resolve all the many difficult challenges our Tribe is/was facing. A good example of that is how we, the Executive Committee, and the AST employees turned a huge budget deficit of some \$689,000 to a surplus of \$56,000 just since July of 2008. This took hard work, cooperation, communication and the ability to make necessary changes in the way our AST spent. I hope that when my term is over in July of 2010 the Tribe will be on a solid foundation of economic growth. I also want to say that working with the current Executive Committee members is something I have enjoyed. Each person, Governor Miller, Lt. Governor Little Axe, Secretary Lopez and Representative Onzawah, has their own specialized expertise on our Tribal government.

We are working together as a "team" meaning we meet on all important issues and make the best decisions

possible. We all work on researching issues so that we can make good decisions. We treat each other with dignity and respect. We all value the expertise of each other. We also value all our AST employees. The atmosphere and environment on the AST campus has greatly improved. We are making head way in the local communities of Choc-taw, Shawnee, Norman and Tecumseh by making our Tribe known. We are also working with other Tribes and value their expertise as well. Every time the E.C. does a good job that means the reputation of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe goes up. I hope that you will give the current E.C. leaders a chance to continue forward in this positive path we are taking. You can rest assured that whom ever is elected, I will commit myself to working with that person in the most professional and respectful manner possible. Thank you for your time. Please vote!

Secretary's Report

Update on projects we are currently working on:

The maintenance department is currently working with the OEH Department in preparing the pads for the new FEMA trailers.

Remolding of the old movie star's video store for a resale shop. We will be taking donations for clothing or furniture to resale. These funds will be for tribal members who is needing emergency assistance through a referral from other tribal offices. If there is anyone out there who would like to donate a washer and dryer for the store we would love to have it. My office will be taking donations soon just call my office if you would like to donate. I would also like Volunteers who may donate time to help set up the shop to call my office. We could use all the help we can get. Please.

I and Governor Miller recently went and visited all the home bound elders and the elders that are in nursing homes to share some Valentine cheer and delivered roses to them. It was an honor to meet our elders and to keep in touch with the ones that I feel is left out of a lot of the elderly activities. We should all visit tribal members who may be in nursing homes, they are still tribal members. Let them know we haven't forgotten them.

It was a very eye opening experience to meet some of our elders and see how they live. We as family members should help all are elders and keep up the yard work and clean their residents up. I was very shocked in some of the living conditions our elders are living in. Me and my Maintenance crew will be cleaning up some of the residents we seen.

We will also be taking applications this year for lawn mowing however there will be some changes being made to the guidelines like for instance the age limit will be changing to 65 and older or disabled members. We spent a lot of time on lawn mowing last year for people who were capable of mowing their own lawn but just didn't have the time to do it themselves. We are here for all tribal members and want to help all tribal members but we have to set some boundaries.

Representative's Report:

Dear Tribal Citizens:

In my last submittal, I had outlined the initiatives of the Office of Tribal Representative in terms of Cultural/ Language Preservation, the development of the Division

of Human Services and the development of the Division of Education and Employment. These projects are still in the formation stage but progress reports are forthcoming.

To date, my office has been working with the programs under my oversight to develop the centralization of vital program information such as copies of departmental grants, reporting schedules, reports, organizational charts, job descriptions, program requirements and specific funding source information. This will ensure that all critical information is available not only in that particular department but also in a central area. This will allow us to make certain that all reports are submitted to appropriate funding agencies in a timely manner so that our programs are in good standing. Also, in the event that any program director transfers or departs from our employment, we will not be deficient of vital program information and the transition for incoming management will be a smooth one.

I would also like to share with you some of the additional activities that I have been involved in:

On January 9th, I, along with Governor Miller and Self-Governance I.H.S. Director Lesa Byford attended the open house for the new Oklahoma City Area Indian Health Service office where we met with key I.H.S. personnel and was given a tour of the various inner-departments.

On January 14th, Treasurer Anita Chisholm, Lesa Byford, Controller Patricia Buckley and I attended the Oklahoma City Area I.H.S. Budget Formulation session at the Oklahoma City Area office in order to become more familiar with the budget process. This session was very informative on budget appropriations and budget priorities and I am glad to have been invited.

Through the effort of the OEP Office, our tribe has received funding from the Environmental Protection Agency to obtain environmental assessments as well as clean up funds for both Lillard and T-Square. It is essential that we work toward creating a plan to develop both sites. This is a requirement by the EPA. Under the GAP grant, we will be going on to individual allotments to clean up dumps that have been highlighted as the highest priority. Once these areas are cleaned up, we will be securing these areas to avoid future dumping. Those individuals needing access to one of these sights should contact Realty for the key to the locks.

The Brownfield's Job Training is currently in session. We have just trained 35 individuals for asbestos/ hazmat module one. We now have a waiting list of 15 for the next class.

A meeting was scheduled with the City of Tecumseh on January 14th which included the Executive Committee and our Office of Environmental Protection in order for us to begin discussions on possible plans to develop the Lillard Pipe & Supply Property as well as the Tecumseh Square Property. Unfortunately the Mayor and City Manager were unable to attend; however, we did get to visit with a member of the Tecumseh Economic Development board. We plan on scheduling another meeting as soon as possible.

OEP is currently planning to host an Environmental Festival with details to be announced on the tribal website and posted on flyers as soon as plans are finalized.

On January 15th I was able to attend the quarterly meeting for the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, along with Governor Miller and Lesa Byford. One of the more critical issues discussed during this meeting was the issue of tribal water rights. It is crucial that tribes conscientiously remain aware of these vital issues so as not to have our rights overlooked. Attendance to these meetings will be constant

so that we remain aware of various statewide issues.

During the week of January 26th -30th, I, along with Tresha Spoon, Education Director and Andy Warrior, Cultural Preservation Director, attended the mandatory strategic planning/training session for the Tribal Youth Program. This program is funded through the Office of Juvenile Justice and attendance and participation in various grant activities such as this training are a requirement. Through the various strategic planning activities completed during this informative training, the TYP plan is now near completion.

The strategic planning process allowed us to outline a youth program design that has a number of activities to assist our young people. One of particular appeal is the plan to develop a Graduation Coach that will advise our youth on understanding the GPA - Grade Point Average, the credits necessary to graduate, and the college/vocational training enrollment processes. We must empower our youth with the knowledge and pathways to develop into strong productive adults – after all, these are our future Tribal leaders.

The month of February has been busy as well. On February 2nd, Treasurer Chisholm and I, along with Lesa Byford and Governor Miller and Les Cusher, attended the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission Legislative Reception in Oklahoma City. The purpose of this reception is for Tribal leaders to meet and visit with state legislators and each other, allowing both sides to discuss various matters concerning Oklahoma Tribes.

On February 13th, I attended the Self Governance Coalition Meeting along with Lesa Byford and Clarice Mur-

dock in order to become more familiar with other Self Governance tribes and programs.

On February 17th, I attended the BIA Regional Budget Meeting in Oklahoma City along with Governor Miller, Clarice Murdock, Sheila Harjo and Patricia Buckley. This meeting was interesting to say the least.

The Executive Committee recognizes that a joint effort must be made not only with our leadership but in conjunction with other tribal leadership when addressing various essential issues. Some of the issues relate to concerns in dealing with the state while some relate to concerns in dealing with BIA. The Executive Committee has therefore taken the initiative to coordinate a meeting with other local Tribal leaders of both the Central Area and statewide so that information about the many pressing issues may be shared and addressed. A recent meeting that I facilitated proved to be encouraging as we had four other tribes participate and offer support in focusing on particular critical issues. More on this initiative will be available in the future.

The Executive Committee and the entire staff of the Absentee Shawnee have been very busy with numerous projects and we are beginning to see some fruition of our dedication. I commend each and every one of the employees and thank you, the Tribal citizens for this opportunity to contribute to our tribe. ■

Until next month, I wish each of you safety and good health.

Grant supports tribal efforts to prevent delinquency

By LaVerne Douglas

Representatives from tribal communities attend Strat Pak training as tribal youth program grantees. The training was administered through the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Jan. 27 through 29 in Albuquerque, N.M.

Representing the Absentee Shawnee Tribe were Tresha Spoon, director of education; Alecia Onzahwah, representative; Andy Warrior, director of cultural preservation; and David Brave Heart, technical assistance specialist. The group collaborated on objectives and goals as well as a vision statement for the tribal youth program. The advisory board for the program will be Spoon, Warrior, Onzahwah, Marilyn Parker of behavioral health, and Brad Jackson, chief of police.

The group was given a packet of forms and worksheets to complete their planning for the Camp Nikoti Tribal Youth Program. The draft of the strategic plan must be submitted no later than June 2009 and the final strategic plan must be submitted no later than September 2009.



The group participated in a "Stone Nation Activity," which was a circle of rocks placed on a small Pendleton rug with name cards of the participating tribes and their representatives. Warrior brought a flint rock from the

AST community to place on the rug. The tribe is one of the tribes in Oklahoma that uses a flint fire.

"The flint fire is used when people pass away and when babies are born," Spoon said. "They give the babies Absentee Shawnee Indian names so it is something that is used when you are brought into this world and when you leave."

Spoon said at the end of the training she picked up her rock and brought it home and plans to bring it with her to the strategic planning meetings to remind her of the purpose of the Strat Pak training which is "for our kids."



l to r: Tresha Spoon, AST Representative Alecia Onzahwah, David Brave Heart and Director of Cultural Preservation - Andy Warrior.



Candidate for Governor Scott Miller

Ho wa se li si mi mo gi ke li ko
te yi ke wa!

My name is Scott Miller and I am announcing my candidacy for Governor of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. My wife, Aly and I reside in the Shawnee area with our sons Connor and Brody. I have served the Tribe for four years in the offices of Secretary, Lieutenant Governor,

and Governor. Prior to serving as an elected official, my tribal experience was as our Cultural Preservation Director, an Acquisition and Disposal Specialist for the Sac & Fox Realty Department; Risk Management Specialist and I developed a loan program at the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority. All were valuable experiences that led me to run for tribal office in 2005.

During the past four years, I have experienced both positive and negative happenings with our Tribe. I have seen disruption of services and fragmentation of the Executive Committee during changes in administration. I have experienced unity and teamwork such as with the current Executive Committee under my administration as Governor. There is no doubt our Tribe has seen troubled times, but those times are changing for the better. During a short period of time, the Tribe has gone from the fear of major cuts in programs to a balanced conservative budget that continues to provide services to our tribal citizens. Throughout the tough times our Tribe faced, my goal has always been to make sure we can take care of our tribal citizens the best we can.

We are now pursuing more grants opportunities and alternative sources of funding to supplement our programs, which is something we have not done in several years. Our program directors and employees now feel empowered to provide welcomed input on bettering programs and services, as well as providing additional services. The atmosphere and image of the Tribe is changing and the world beyond our Tribe is noticing the positive progress we are making.

A lot has been said about change and hope on the National level and we are no different. It is ok for us to have hope because without hope, we would have nothing to work toward. In order for us to realize our hopes, a change must take place and that change has already begun through the efforts of our current Executive Committee. We have begun to reconsider the way we handle the issues facing the Tribe through discussion to come to solutions. There is hope in progressing the Tribe through open minds and ideas not through closed doors. The old way of tribal politics with internal fighting and disrupting services and programs is going away right before our eyes. Our Tribe can no longer afford to elect individuals who are destructive with hidden agendas and operate as a kingdom instead of a democracy. Our Tribe needs to elect individuals who can work together for the benefit of the whole Tribe.

Since becoming Governor, our Tribe has had a number of accomplishments. A good number of projects are in progress, some have been completed, and some are beginning the construction phase.

- ◆ Hired Thunderbird Casino General Manager and Assistant General Manager, who have orchestrated the stabilization and generation of increased revenue and profit of Thunderbird Casino.
- ◆ Worked with gaming vendor to get capital injection to Thunderbird.
- ◆ Opened the Shawnee Medicaid Clinic in August, 2008.
- ◆ Re-opened the Absentee Shawnee Dental Clinic at Little Axe in August, 2008.
- ◆ Awarded IHS Joint Venture Project. One of two awarded in the Nation.
- ◆ Obtaining alternative construction funding for Joint Venture with Executive Committee approval.
- ◆ Created a Tribal Health Authority to oversee the Health Programs.
- ◆ Opened a new fitness area at the Tribal Complex.
- ◆ Began construction of Building Blocks 2 at the Tribal Complex 2009.
- ◆ Increased Absentee Shawnee Police man power to provide 24 hour coverage.
- ◆ Obtained the first K-9 Unit for the Tribe (at not cost).
- ◆ Received 2nd Equipment Grant to provide vehicles, uniforms, laptop computers, and other equipment needed to provide law enforcement services.
- ◆ Re-established the Absentee Shawnee Reserve Officer program.
- ◆ Hosting Tribe's first CLEET Reserve police officer basic academy.
- ◆ Entered into a Memorandum of Understanding with Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority to provide more complete law enforcement services to tribal citizens and funding for police department.
- ◆ Renewed cross-deputation with Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Office.
- ◆ Opening of a Police Department Sub-station in Little Axe next to Absentee Shawnee Convenience Store.
- ◆ Currently in progressive talks with Cleveland County Sheriff's Office in reference to cross-deputation.
- ◆ Updated Absentee Shawnee Police Standard Operating Procedures.
- ◆ In the Final stage of Cross-commission with Lake Thunderbird State Park Rangers.
- ◆ Future goal to establish a Cleveland County Division of the ASTPD for 24 hour coverage.

As we look forward, our Tribe has the potential to develop new economic opportunities through ASED and partnerships with other tribes in Oklahoma. We have been fortunate and the doors of opportunity have been opening over this past year. Although economic times are tough, we have endured during this time and continue to improve one day at a time.

I am asking for your vote and support on Saturday, March 21, 2009 as we continue to change and make a better future for our children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren.

Ne Yi Wa!

Candidate for Governor George Blanchard



Hello Fellow Tribal Members:

NA-KO-GI-YA: This is what we were instructed to say when asked by tribal members to do something for them. NA-KO-GI-YA means "I will try." This is what I will do about the position as the Governor of our tribe if you will honor me with your vote.

As every one knows, during election years, candidates always promise to implement, or expedite programs and policies that their predecessors

neglected to find important, or implemented in a way that benefited only a select few. As a tribe, we must all realize that almost any issue, program, and policy has been discussed and addressed by all administrations in the past. Everyone must be aware that there is only a limited amount of grant and tax money available for vital programs, and promising to expand programs where funding does not exist is not only futile, it is dishonest, and is not the Shawnee way. In this regard, it is my intent to try and end partisan ideology and attempt to bring the tribe together as a unified group. If this can be accomplished, every one in the tribe will have input, (and votes) on when and where our monies will be utilized. These are YOUR programs, and every one should have a say in how they are handled. In reality, five or ten people cannot make decisions for three thousand, and satisfy every one. The three thousand must have a say in what happens. If you want to have a real voice in the progression of our tribe, I ask that you give me the opportunity and the privilege of being the voice.

Respectfully, George Blanchard.

Absentee Shawnee Tribe Community Outreach

When: The 1st and 3rd Friday of each month

Where: Little Axe Resource Center

Time: 9:00 a.m. to Noon

There will be a Social Service Representative there to take applications for LIHEAP, General Assistance, Tribal Energy Assistance.

We will also have Domestic Violence, Brownsfield Job Training Program Applications and Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority applications and Clothing Allowance Forms.

For any questions, please feel free to call our office at 405-275-4030 extension 142.

Candidate for Governor Anthony Johnson



As a candidate for Governor, I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself. I am Anthony David Johnson, also known as "frog." My wife Diana Kay (D.K.) and I reside east of Norman. We have been blessed with two children; Christie Johnson-Pack and Anthony D Johnson Jr. "Tad" and six grandchildren. My parents are the late Henry Lee Johnson and Zelma Deere, who taught me to speak our language fluently and to respect

and participate in our tribal religion and customs.

I have served my country in the U.S. Army as a sergeant in the 101st Airborne Division in Vietnam where I was awarded a bronze star. I am Retired from Southwestern Bell Telephone Company and recently have been contracting in the field of communications.

Various issues (not limited to):

- Accountability
- Benefits and Services
- Common sense approach to new business ventures
- Improve existing programs
- Efficient and cost effective government

Every Candidate for office has the same basic intentions for good government, as with myself. The difference is the approach to getting the job done. Taking a common sense approach to business solutions is essential. In order for our Tribe to move forward we must be able to maintain and manage our existing programs and businesses. By establishing a better foundation and improving on these programs will ensure that we are able to seek additional opportunities for growth. This being said, I do not think our Tribe should become stagnant but instead establish a solid business plan.

My work experience and military background have provided me the meaning of dedication and loyalty to serve with compassion, honesty, integrity and teamwork. I have served my country and now it is time to step up and serve my Tribe.

Please accept this open invitation to discuss tribal business and/or myself.

Anthony David Johnson
Home Phone: 405-329-5375
E-mail: FrogForGov@aol.com
MySpace: FrogForGov

www.astribe.com

Candidate for Governor Betty Lou Mahardy Watson



Before you go to the polls to vote on March 21, please think about the following things:

There is so much information you need to be aware of and what is happening within our tribal government. It is important for you to be informed! But the most important thing you need to remember is that elected tribal leaders, like all elected public officials, hold positions of trust and have a fiduciary duty and responsibility to protect the assets and prop-

erty of their constituents. When we elect individuals as our tribal leaders, we entrust them to follow the laws and the constitution of the Tribe and to serve with integrity and honesty. And, when this public trust is betrayed for personal gain, it strikes at the core of our tribal government and destroys the people's trust. And, as a Shawnee, we must never forget that:

As SHAWNEES, we must think about the teachings of our ancestors and what it means to be a Shawnee. We want to preserve our language, our heritage, and hold sacred and reverend our traditional ways. These traditional ways are to be passed down from generation to generation and not be shared with outsiders. This is the Shawnee way.

As SHAWNEES, we were taught to take care of our family (not only our immediate family but all tribal members), and provide for the welfare of ALL. Our spiritual leaders mention this in their prayers to our Creator, to look after and take care of our Grandfathers, Grandmothers, our Fathers, Mothers, our Uncles, Aunts, our children, our grandchildren, our Great Grandchildren. To think well of each other, to respect and help one another. This is the Shawnee way.

As SHAWNEES, we must put aside our childish ways and prepare ourselves for the future of our tribe. The future is the destiny of our Shawnee people; we are the keepers of humanity, and to survive and thrive for generations to come. We must elect leaders with wisdom, experience and knowledge to make responsible decisions for our people.

As A SHAWNEE, if I am elected as you Governor, I will work with the elders, the past elected leaders and the future leaders of our tribe to formulate a plan to move our Tribe forward because the decisions we make today affect generations to come. We can do this together, if you elect me as your Governor.

Please visit my website at <http://www.bettywatson.com> for additional information. I will be updating information on this site on a weekly basis for your review. Or, you may call me: 405-821-6304.

Thank you for your consideration, and please vote March 21. Your vote can make the difference for our people.

Betty Mahardy Watson (Hiso-Wik-Kimse)
Candidate for Governor Absentee Shawnee Tribe

WANT FREE TAX SERVICE?

FREE E-FILING?

Of course you do. Volunteer attorneys, staff and law students will be available at the following times and places to professionally prepare your federal and state tax returns and e-file them, all at no cost to you.

**Absentee Shawnee Tribal Complex
Building 3 (Treasurer's Offices)
9:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.**

Monday, March 16, 2009

Monday, March 23, 2009

Monday, March 30, 2009

Just bring to the site all your tax documents: W-2's, 1099's, childcare provider information, driver's license(s)/photo id(s), social security cards (copies are acceptable), and any other documents you think may be necessary to prepare your taxes. Copies of your 2008 tax returns would be helpful, but not required. If you want refunds deposited in your checking or savings accounts, we need the bank routing and account numbers.

*Sponsored by: Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
Oklahoma Indian Legal Services, Inc.*

*Any information needed, please contact the
Treasurer's office at 405-275-4030*



The Absentee Shawnee News is published monthly by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and is mailed free, one per address, to enrolled Tribal members. Additional subscriptions to non-tribal members and organizations are available for \$12 annually. We welcome letters to the editor, comments and submissions but reserve the right to limit printing based upon available space. The Absentee Shawnee News also reserves the right to refuse publication of letters to the editor. Editorials and letters must be signed and include an address or phone number to be considered for publishing. Editorial statements and letters to the editor published in this newspaper contain the opinions of the writers. These opinions do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the editor of The Absentee Shawnee News or any elected official or department of tribal government or administration. **(The deadline for submissions is the 3rd Wednesday of each month. All submissions that miss this posted deadline will be printed in the next issue if possible).** Reprint permission is granted with prior approval and publication credit to The Absentee Shawnee News. All correspondence should be directed to:

**Sharon Shawnee, Communications Director
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
Shawnee, OK 74801
or Call (405) 598-1279
e-mail: mediadept@astribe.com**

**We have moved to a new location.
219 E. Walnut
Tecumseh, Ok 74873**

**ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
REGULAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2009
EXECUTIVE RESOLUTIONS**

E-AS-2009-3

A RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE-SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA ESTABLISHING DATE, TIME AND PLACE TO CONDUCT THE 63rd SEMI-ANNUAL GENERAL COUNCIL MEETING FOR THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA AS APRIL 4, 2009 @ 10:00 A.M. AT TECUMSEH SQUARE

CERTIFICATION

We, Scott Miller, Governor and Michelle Lopez, Secretary of the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that this Resolution No. E-AS-2009-3 to be a true and exact copy as approved by the Executive Committee of the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma at a duly called meeting held on February 18, 2009, there being a quorum present, by a vote of 3 in favor, 0 opposed, and 0 abstentions, as follows: Lt. Governor Little Axe: Absent, Secretary Lopez: Yes, Treasurer Chisholm: Yes Representative Onzawah: Yes, Governor Miller=s vote, if required, N/A.

E-AS-2009-4

A RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA APPROVING AND ACCEPTING KAI NEAL BLAZE FELTON AND KIRSTEN ELIZABETH TENNER AS ENROLLED MEMBERS OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA.

CERTIFICATION

We, Scott Miller, Governor and Michelle Lopez, Secretary of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that this Resolution No. E-AS-2009-4 to be a true and exact copy as approved by the Executive Committee of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma at a duly called Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2009 there being a quorum present by a vote of: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, as follows: Lt. Governor Little Axe: Absent; Secretary Lopez: Yes; Treasurer Chisholm: Yes; Representative Onzawah: Yes; Governor Miller vote, if required: N/A.

E-AS-2009-5

A RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA GRANTING CONDITIONAL RELINQUISHMENT OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF TANYA LYNN WOLFE.

CERTIFICATION

We, Scott Miller, Governor and Michelle Lopez, Secretary of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that this Resolution No. E-AS-2009-5 to be a true and exact copy as approved by the Executive Committee of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma at a duly called Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2009 there being a quorum present by a vote of: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, as follows: Lt. Governor Little Axe: Absent; Secretary Lopez: Yes; Treasurer Chisholm: Yes; Representative Onzawah: Yes; Governor Miller vote, if required: N/A.

E-AS-2009-6

A RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA GRANTING CONDITIONAL RELINQUISHMENT OF MEMBERSHIP IN THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF INDIANS OF LARRA MARIE GRASS.

CERTIFICATION

We, Scott Miller, Governor and Michelle Lopez, Secretary of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that this Resolution No. E-AS-2009-6 to be a true and exact copy as approved by the Executive Committee of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma at a duly called Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2009 there being a quorum present by a vote of: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, as follows: Lt. Governor Little Axe: Absent; Secretary Lopez: Yes; Treasurer Chisholm: Yes; Representative Onzawah: Yes; Governor Miller vote, if required: N/A.

E-AS-2009-7

A RESOLUTION DULY ADOPTED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE-SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA REQUESTING THE SECRETARY OF INTERIOR, OR HIS DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE, TO AUTHORIZE THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA TO ENTER INTO A COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT WITH CLEVELAND COUNTY FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONSTRUCTION OF THE PROJECTS LISTED IN THIS RESOLUTION.

CERTIFICATION

We, Scott Miller, Governor, and Michelle Lopez, Secretary, of the Absentee-Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that this Resolution No. E-AS-2009-7 to be a true and exact copy as approved by the Executive Committee of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma at a duly called Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2009 there being a quorum present by a vote of: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, as follows: Lt. Governor Little Axe: Absent; Secretary Lopez: Yes; Treasurer Chisholm: Yes; Representative Onzawah: Yes; Governor Miller vote, if required: N/A.

**ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA
REGULAR EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 18, 2009
LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTIONS**

L-AS-2009-1

A RESOLUTION DULY APPROVED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE-SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA AUTHORIZING AND AMENDING THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA CODE OF LAWS, CRIMINAL OFFENSES CHAPTER WITH THE ADDITION OF SECTION 541. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES ACT AS ATTACHED, EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

CERTIFICATION

We, Scott Miller, Governor and Michelle Lopez, Secretary of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that this Resolution No-L-AS-2009-1 to be a true and exact copy as approved by the Executive Committee of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma at a duly called Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2009 there being a quorum present by a vote of: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, as follows: Lt. Governor Little Axe: Absent; Secretary Lopez: Yes; Treasurer Chisholm: Yes; Representative Onzawah: Yes; Governor Miller vote, if required: N/A.

L-AS-2009-2

A RESOLUTION PROPOSED BY THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE OF THE ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA AUTHORIZING AND APPROVING AN INCREASE TO THE GENERAL FUND BUDGET FOR CALENDAR YEAR 2009 IN THE AMOUNT OF SEVENTY-EIGHT-THOUSAND, NINE-HUNDRED-FORTY-THREE DOLLARS AND NO CENTS (\$78,943.00) AS REFLECTED IN THE ATTACHED BUDGET DOCUMENT, "EXHIBIT A", EFFECTIVE IMMEDIATELY.

CERTIFICATION

We, Scott Miller, Governor and Michelle Lopez, Secretary of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, do hereby certify that this Resolution No. L-AS-2009-2 to be a true and exact copy as approved by the Executive Committee of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma at a duly called Regular Meeting held on February 18, 2009 there being a quorum present by a vote of: 3 in favor, 0 opposed, 0 abstentions, as follows: Lt. Governor Little Axe: Absent; Secretary Lopez: Yes; Treasurer Chisholm: Yes; Representative Onzawah: Yes; Governor Miller vote, if required: N/A.

**For a complete printed copy of any resolution, you may
contact the Secretary's office and request for one.
(405) 275--4030**

Tribal police sponsors self-defense course

By LaVerne Douglas

Officers from throughout the state meet to learn a combative defense system during a Krav Maga certification course the week of Feb. 23 in Tecumseh.

Krav Maga is a system developed by the Israeli Military that they teach to their military special forces and police said Absentee Shawnee Tribal Police Special Projects Officer Al Wysocki. He said it is a self-defense system for police officers to counter any type of event that may occur in the field.

"It makes us more capable officers to serve and protect not only the citizens of the Absentee Shawnee Tribe, but also surrounding communities that we service," Wysocki said.

Defensive Tactics Coordinator for the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training Kelvin Hall said he will take the training back to the basic law enforcement academy and integrate it into their existing system to get a more realistic type of training that will prepare officers for a life or death situation in a fight. Hall is the head of the defensive tactics training program for the entire state of Oklahoma.

Moore Police Department Master Officer Troy Fullbright said the officers are working on combative drills that make sure their techniques are solid – pushing them right to the point of exhaustion – and pushing them further. He said the training is a building block where techniques are added to the drill and the drill becomes longer as more techniques are added.

Absentee Shawnee Tribal Officer Ben Henderson said he has seen other state and overseas defense systems and said this is one of the best systems. He said it allows the officers to not only protect themselves, but to protect the tribal citizens and the general public because anything can happen anywhere.

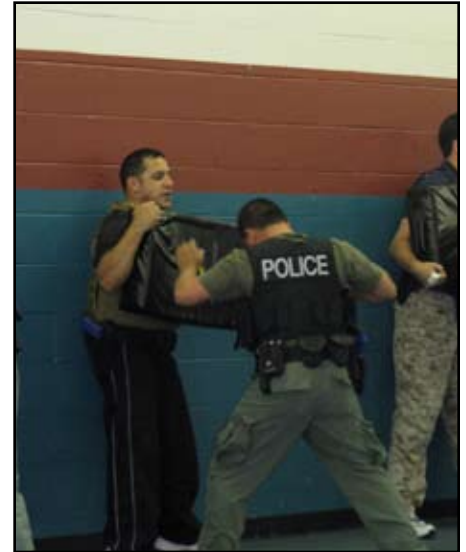
"It was a good course for the officers of our community and that of other communities to come and learn other

techniques to serve the public and that is the bottom line," Henderson said.

The toughest drill during the course is the test out phase, which consist of all the techniques the officers learned throughout the week said Absentee Shawnee Tribal Detective Anthony Johnson. During the test – which last an hour – the officers initiate attacks while the testee defends against the attacks with striking, hitting, and punching then the officers pose a weapon that the testee must defeat to continue the test.

"As patrol officers we would like to come in and open their eyes to the threat that we deal with every day on patrol," Johnson said. "We deal with threats on a day-to-day basis."

Officers from the Fort Gibson Police Department, Lawton Police Department, Muskogee County Sheriff's Department, Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation, and the Chickasaw Lighthorse Police Department were there as defensive tactic instructors. They are responsible for teaching other officers in their department the Krav Maga techniques.



FY-2008 YTD TAX COLLECTIONS (thru 2/28/2009)

TAX CATEGORY	JANUARY	FEBRUARY	YEAR-TO-DATE TOTAL	% OF COLLECTIONS
Sales (6%)	\$13,683.19	\$13,201.74	\$26,884.93	9.82%
Gaming (6%)(23%)	\$85,000.00	\$116,114.00	\$201,114.00	73.47%
Employee (1%)	\$13,066.41	\$8,309.81	\$21,376.22	7.81%
Severance (8%)	\$1,763.38	\$909.99	\$2,673.37	0.98%
Motor Vehicle	\$8,776.01	\$11,549.23	\$20,325.24	7.43%
TOTAL TAXES	\$122,288.99	\$150,084.77	\$272,373.76	
Miscellaneous	\$1,009.92	\$355.38	\$1,365.30	0.50%
TOTAL COLLECTIONS	\$123,298.91	\$150,440.15	\$273,739.06	100%

Happy Birthday To All Tribal Members Born In *March*



Happy Birthday
Chelle Foreman

From
Sherry

Happy 15th Birthday
To my little "Papoose"
(Solomon)
March 13th

Love Dad, Mom & Bud

*Happy Birthday
Kylie Ann*

From Aunt Sharon & the kids

*Happy 9th Birthday
Kylie Ann Yates*

From
Uncle Nine Toes & Mama Seal

**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
EVERETT TAHAH**

LOVE UNCLE MARV & SHERRY

**Happy Birthday
Rhaeanna Casteel
March 4th**

Love the Kasecas

**Happy Birthday
Manuel Herrera**

From
Marvin, Sherry & Darrol

Happy 15th Birthday
Soloman Blanchard

We Wish yo a great day!
Love G-aunt and G-uncle Kaseca

*Tessa Baker
Happy 3rd Birthday on March 9th*

We Love you very very much

Love, Mom, Nana, Papa,

Uncle Ray, Aunt Gina & Julie & Eric

Happy Birthday Chelle!

Love Aunt Rhonda and Nikki

*Happy Birthday
BryeAnna
Love, Mom and sister*

*Happy Birthday
BryeAnna
love,
Grandma and Papa*

**Happy Birthday
Everett Tahah**

We love ya!

Aunt Sharon and Coltin

Happy 37th Birthday
To my sister Vikki

Love Always
Tammy

Happy Birthday Mom and
Grandma Chelle,

We love you,
Elli/Jessica, Holly, Darrol and grandson

*Happy Belated Birthday
Love,*

Vikki, Danny and Rodney

**Wish "Baby Andee"
a Happy 14th Birthday!!**

From Devon, Kendall, Mommy
and Dad Frazier

Happy Birthday Vikki

Love,
Laurel & Doyle

Happy Birthday Granny

Love you,
Rodney

We love you very much

Great Granny

Happy Birthday,

Logan & Korban

*Happy Birthday
"Mom"*

We love you,

Laurel Brad & Doyle Chad

*Happy Birthday Mom
Gertrude Pickering
I love you very much
Tammy Gayle*

**Happy Birthday
Grandma**

Love you always
Derek & Megan

Happy Birthday to my
Beautiful mom,
Vicki & Danny

**Happy Belated
15th!**

**We love you,
Derek, Megan, Logan
& Korban**

Happy Belated Birthday

Laurel & Doyle

*We love you,
Mom, Tammy, and Tony*

**Happy Birthday
Mom**

Love Rodney

**Happy Birthday
Vikki**

Love always, MOM

Happy 37th Auntie

Love,
Derek and Megan
Logan and Korban

Editor's Note: Because of Privacy Issues and Potential Identity Theft, we can no longer print a list of Birthdays each month.

CONGRATULATIONS!!

Graduation Announcement

*Congratulations to our
grandson
Justin Michael Schulenburg
Justin received his high
school diploma with a
4.0 GPA from
Texas Star Point Academy.*

Love Mema & Papa

*Happy 1st Anniversary
Eli & Jessica Davis
From Marvin, Sherry & Darrol*

Our new arrival...



Korban Marc-Anthony Wayne Woody

Megan Tucker and Derek Woody announce the birth of their son, Korban Marc-Anthony Wayne Woody, 3:29 p.m. Jan. 12, 2009, at Unity Health Center, North Campus. He weighed 7 pounds,

13 ounces and was 19 " inches long.

Grandparents are April Tucker and Keith Maylen of Shawnee, Tammy Liles of Earlsboro and Tony and Lisa Woody of Meeker.

Great-grandparents are Louise Tucker of Shawnee, Gertrude Pickering of Earlsboro, Jerry Woody and Carol Woody of Meeker. Korban is the brother of Logan Tucker.



Little Axe Elementary Girls Basketball Team, 1st place in League and post-season Champions

The Little Axe Elementary School girl's basketball team won the P.C.A.A. League with a record of seven wins and one loss. They were seeded #1 going into the post season tournament on February 21st and went undefeated winning in the finals with a score of 12-8 against Tecumseh. Seven of the eleven girls on the team are Absentee Shawnee Tribal members: Kristyn and Camryn Pack, Jada Nance, Brianna Marshall, Jaylan Gibson, Casey Miller and Kendell Frazier and coached Rick Frazier.

*Congratulations
on your new baby boy!*

*Talon Jacobi Tahah
arrived on January 23, 2009*

At 12:00 p.m.

*He weighed 7lbs, 13oz
and 19 inches long*

*Proud parents are
Everett Tahah & Newakis Malone*



Stephens addresses domestic violence

By LaVerne Douglas

Kimberly Stephens knows that domestic violence can happen to anyone and everyone.

"It's not who you are or how much money you have," Stephens said. "Whenever there is a Native American needing assistance to get out of a situation we will help. Just call, don't be ashamed of it."

Stephens said "Native American" women have the highest rate of violence more than any other racial group. She said the reason she works with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Domestic Violence Services as its domestic violence advocate is because she wants to help fight and reduce the violence against "Native American" women. AST also offers domestic violence services to men.

The program provides advocacy to victims by focusing on the dynamics of domestic violence through educational material and emotional support. Emergency assistance is provided to the victims and their children to get them away from the batterer.

Stephens grew up in Seminole, graduated from Seminole High School, and is an enrolled citizen of the Seminole Nation of Oklahoma. She worked with the Family Resource Center of Seminole County for several years as an advocate, shelter coordinator, and director of the resource center before she transferred to the Oklahoma Coalition

Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault as their office manager. She will be graduating with a bachelor's in business management from Mid-America Christian University in May. She plans to continue her education with a master's in counseling so she can provide counseling to the victims. Stephens and her husband Claud have four children Kimbrie, 11; Shemmario, 8; Shemmei, 5; and Shallomar, 2.

"With Native Americans a lot of the domestic violence goes unreported," Stephens said. "I know its part of our culture to keep everything to ourselves – family issues and deal with it – but when domestic violence is hurting your family and you're not getting stronger – and it's hurting you.

"You know everyone needs help sometimes and we're here."

To learn more about AST Domestic Violence Services call 405-275-4030.



Ten Ways to Help Prevent Child Abuse

❖ Be a nurturing parent.

Children need to know that they are special, loved and capable of following their dreams.

❖ Help a friend, neighbor or relative.

Being a parent isn't easy. Offer a helping hand take care of the children, so the parent(s) can rest or spend time together.

❖ Help yourself.

When the big and little problems of your everyday life pile up to the point you feel overwhelmed and out of control – take time out. Don't take it out on your kid.

❖ If your baby cries...

It can be frustrating to hear your baby cry. Learn what to do if your baby won't stop crying. Never shake a baby – shaking a child may result in severe injury or death.

❖ Get involved.

Ask your community leaders, clergy, library and schools to develop services to meet the needs of healthy children and families.

❖ Help to develop parenting resources at your local library.

❖ Promote programs in school.

Teaching children, parents and teachers prevention strategies can help to keep children safe.

❖ Monitor your child's television and video viewing.

Watching violent films and TV programs can harm young children.

❖ Volunteer at a local child abuse prevention program.

For information about volunteer opportunities, call 1.800.CHILDREN.

❖ Report suspected abuse or neglect.

If you have reason to believe a child has been or may be harmed, call the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's Indian Child Welfare Department (405)275-4030 ext. 166 or the Absentee Shawnee Tribe's police department (405) 275-3200.

It is everyone's responsibility to report suspected or known child abuse!

10 THINGS YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT STALKING

1. **Stalking is a crime.** Stalking is a course of conduct directed at a specific person that places a reasonable person in fear for her or his safety. It is against the law in every state. Stalking across state lines or in federal territories is illegal under federal law.
2. **Many people are stalked.** 1 in 12 women and 1 in 45 men will be stalked in their lifetimes. 1.4 million people are stalked every year in the United States.
3. **Stalking can be very dangerous.** 76 percent of women killed by their intimate partners were stalked by these partners before they were killed. All stalkers should be considered unpredictable and very dangerous.
4. **Stalking is harmful and intrusive.** Stalking victims often lose time from work or never return to work, and some even relocate to regain a sense of safety. Many suffer from anxiety, insomnia, and severe depression as a result of being stalked.
5. **Anyone can be stalked – not just celebrities.** The vast majority of stalking victims are ordinary people. Furthermore, most stalkers are not strangers, but are known by their victim.
6. **Stalking can occur during a relationship, after a relationship, or in the absence of a relationship.** Stalking often begins during a relationship. Stalkers may keep the victim under surveillance or threaten her or him. Others begin stalking after the victim has ended the relationship, and the stalker feels desperate to maintain or regain control. Still others become fixated on a victim without ever having had any relationship with the person. All forms of stalking are unpredictable, and all should be considered dangerous.
7. **Technology can be used to stalk.** Although newly-developed technology enhances our lives, it can also empower criminals. Cell phones, computers, and surveillance equipment are just some of the technologies stalkers now use.
8. **An effective response to stalking includes the entire community.** Police, prosecutors, advocates, educators, reporters, neighbors...everyone can and should play a part in stopping stalking. Working together, we can make victims safer.
9. **You can make a difference.** Visit www.ncvc.org/src to learn more about stalking and how to fight it.

Help is available. If you or someone you know is being stalked, call 1-800-FYI-CALL/TTY: 1-800-211-7996 for assistance.

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime
Stalking resource center
2000 M Street, NW Suite 480
Washington, DC 20036
Tel. 202-467-8700

THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR
Victims of Crime

Stalking
Resource center

Now hiring for following positions:

**Grill Cashiers
Cage Cashiers
Drop**



**Grill Cooks
Security**

Must be energetic, customer orientated, dependable

**Please apply with Human Resources
at Thunderbird Casino**

**15700 E Hwy 9
Norman, OK 73026
405-360-9270**

We are located 17 miles East of Norman on Hwy 9

*Absentee Shawnee tribal
members can eat the Monday
dinner buffet at Thunderbird Casino for
1/2 price when they show their
CDIB card.*



*AST Promotion day is last
Friday of the month.
Tribal member's show their CDIB
card at the player's club desk
pay \$10 and get \$20 in slot
play.*

March 2009

New Machines!!! New Ways to Win!!!

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-8pm TWO \$1,000 DRAWINGS	2 Seniors Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm BUSTS FOR BUCKS	3 Ladies Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm Slot Tournament 7:30pm	4 Men's Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm	5 Seniors Day Hot Seat Drawings 10am-3pm	6 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 7pm-11pm Live Music on Casino Stage	7 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-12am Live Music on Casino Stage
8 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-8pm TWO \$1,000 DRAWINGS	9 Seniors Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm \$6 Dinner Buffets 5pm-7pm	10 Ladies Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm Slot Tournament 7:30pm	11 Men's Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm BUSTS FOR BUCKS	12 Seniors Day Hot Seat Drawings 10am-3pm	13 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 7pm-11pm Live Music on Casino Stage	14 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-12am Live Music on Casino Stage
15 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-8pm TWO \$1,000 DRAWINGS	16 Seniors Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm \$6 Dinner Buffets 5pm-7pm	17 Ladies Night Slot Tournament 7:30pm BUSTS FOR BUCKS	18 Men's Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm	19 Seniors Day Hot Seat Drawings 10am-3pm	20 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 7pm-11pm Live Music on Casino Stage	21 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-12am Live Music on Casino Stage
22 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-8pm TWO \$1,000 DRAWINGS	23 Seniors Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm \$6 Dinner Buffets 5pm-7pm	24 Ladies Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm Slot Tournament 7:30pm	25 Men's Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm	26 Seniors Day Hot Seat Drawings 10am-3pm BUSTS FOR BUCKS	27 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 7pm-11pm Live Music on Casino Stage	28 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-12am Live Music on Casino Stage
29 Give us \$10, you get \$20 in Slot Play Hot Seat Drawings 3pm-8pm TWO \$1,000 DRAWINGS	30 Seniors Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm \$6 Dinner Buffets 5pm-7pm	31 Ladies Night Hot Seat Drawings 6pm-10pm Slot Tournament 7:30pm	<div> <div> \$5 Slot Play on Wednesday Valid only March 4th or 11th 9am-Midnight <small>LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER. COUPON HAS NO CASH VALUE.</small> </div> <div> \$5 Slot Play on Wednesday Valid only March 18th or 25th 9am-Midnight <small>LIMIT ONE PER CUSTOMER. COUPON HAS NO CASH VALUE.</small> </div> </div>			

Management has the right to change or cancel any promotion.

Elders Council update for February meeting

By Mary Birdtail

The Absentee Shawnee Elders Council met in their regular monthly meeting, Saturday, February 21, 2009 at Tecumseh Square, in Tecumseh, Oklahoma. Newly elected officers Gene Parker, President; Mary Birdtail, Vice President; Cynthia Longhorn, Secretary; and Kathy Deere, Treasurer conducted the meeting. Twenty-nine tribal members were present at the Call to order. Invocation was given by Mildred Switch. Birthdays for the month were recognized and present at that time for the birthday song were Pauline Johnson, Reta Harjo, Sandra Johnson, Jan Alford, Diana Johnston, Leroy Roller and Cynthia Longhorn.

New members to the Elders Council were welcomed and recognized. They were: Wynona Coon and Elroy Alford, Jr. An announcement of tribal member Steve Johnson being involved in a car accident was heard. The group was also informed of Mary Birdtail being the main contact person for the Flower Fund was heard. Other officers may also be contacted when the need arises. Minutes of the January 17, 2009 were not available. Treasurer's report from the January 2009 meeting was presented by previous Treasurer Joann Walker was heard. Current Treasurer Kathy Deere also was heard. Tribal members had questions about expenses for the Branson, Missouri trip as well as the Christmas dinner attendance. There was discussion on minutes from previous meetings and per diem for officers.

Following this, there was lengthy discussion on guidelines and suggested changes. These suggestions will be voted on at the next monthly meeting in March. Open Discussion brought up questions concerning activities and location for future fund raisers, equipment and supplies for the Council, table Minutes of meetings from previous Secretary, Sue Blanchard; donated funds from Thunderbird Entertainment Center and lack of documentation for amount and

expenditure. Council members also requested up to date information on the restitution payments from former Treasurer, Mary Ann Gibson. It was agreed that this information will be obtained and presented at the next meeting.

Tribal member and elder Catherine Masquat were present for recognition as being the eldest Absentee Shawnee female at this meeting. It was learned that she had turned 98 years young in December. She was escorted by her daughter "Johnnie Mae" Bentlyon and arrived in time to be presented with a gift toiletry basket and to enjoy a pot luck dinner and Bingo. We were very happy to see Catherine come out for our meeting. We also were told that this date marked the 56th Wedding Anniversary of Elroy and Jan Alford.

Catherine Masquat was present for recognition as being the eldest Absentee Shawnee female at this meeting. It was learned that she had turned 98 years young in December. She was escorted by

her daughter "Johnnie Mae" Bentlyon and arrived in time to be presented with a gift toiletry basket and to enjoy a pot luck dinner and Bingo. We were very happy to see Catherine come out for our meeting. We also were told that this date marked the 56th Wedding Anniversary of Elroy and Jan Alford.

The next meeting date of the Elders Council is set for March 14, 2009 at the Resource Center in Little Axe. A Bake Sale will be held at that time. We hope to see you then! For more information contact Cynthia Longhorn at 273-4137.



In Memoriam

Corwyn Dale "DD" Littlecreek 1961-2009

Corwyn Dale "DD" Littlecreek departed from this life on Thursday, February 12, 2009 at home in Howe, Texas. He was born in Dallas, Texas. His parents are Dorothy (Dirt) Littlecreek Summers and the late Herman Littlecreek. His Grandparents were the late Sallie and Jack Littlecreek, and Jessie Mann.

"DD" attended school and grew up in Chillicothe, Texas, and worked mostly in construction. He loved to go on fishing and hunting trips with friends and his two brothers and spending time with family. He leaves a void in the hearts of all who knew him and will be sorely missed.

Survivors include his mother of Howe, Texas; sister Mitzie Wiles of Saginaw, Texas; two brothers, Calvin of Chillicothe, Texas and Vernon of Abernathy, Texas, Aunts Alice McBride of Little Axe and Lois Belden of Lexington, Oklahoma; numerous nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Service and interment were held in Chillicothe, Texas.



ARE YOU LOOKING FOR A JOB AND HAVE A DISABILITY?

The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma's Vocational Rehabilitation Counselor will be onsite at the AST Tribal Complex to answer questions and accept applications from those individuals with disabilities seeking assistance with vocational training and employment.

The Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma's Vocational Rehabilitation Program covers Native American's living in Pottawatomie County.

The Iowa Tribe VR Counselor will be on-site for outreach purposes on the first and third Thursday of every month in the Social Service Department of Building 1 from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Tribal Elders Organization Meeting

*Saturday
March 14, 2009
10:00 a.m.*

*Little Axe Resource Center
All Tribal Elders Welcome*

Bake Sale

Title VI March 24th Chair Exercises 12:30 – 1:00

Just pull up a chair and—exercise! Chair exercises are a gentle way for seniors to build muscle strength and stay flexible. The simple slow-moving chair exercises can also improve balance, increase metabolism, relieve pain and improve mental alertness.



VETERAN'S ASSOCIATION MEETING

**Wednesday, March 11, 2009
7:00 p.m.
Location - Title VI Bldg**

**John Vanderburg, Coordinator of Veteran's Affairs
Located in Bldg 2
(405) 275-4030 ext. 205**



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA TITLE VI PROGRAM

Title VI works closely with the Diabetes and Wellness staff to assist Tribal Elders with Education, Nutrition, Health Services and screening to better provide for the Elders.

If you have any questions, you can contact me
@ 275-4030 ext. 169.
Yvette Moore, Title VI Coordinator



menu subject to change

March 2009

2% milk served daily

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 BBQ Sandwich Pot. Salad Mandarin Oranges Salad Bar	2 Chicken Pot Pie Scalloped Pot. Plums	3 Sloppy Joe Chips/Pickles Fruit Cocktail	4 Spaghetti Salad Garlic Toast Pudding	5 Boiled Eggs Sausage Links Toast Juice	6
7 SPRING FORWARD	8 Salisbury Steak Mashed Pot/Gravy Beets Pineapples	9 Chef Salad Chicken Strips Cott. Chez Jell-O/Fruit	10 Oven Fried Chicken Mac n Chez Greenbeans/Roll Coconut Cream Pie	11 Tuna Salad Sandwich Carrot/Celery Peaches	12 Biscuits/Gravy Bacon Fruit	13
14	15 Chicken Fried Steak Sandwich Lett. Tom Apricots	16 Goulash Broc. Sliced bread Cherry Crisp	17 Ham Brussel Sprouts Sweet Pot. Roll/Applesauce	18 Veggie Soup Grilled Chez Blueberry Muffin	19 French Toast Sausage Patties Milk	20
21	22 Wieners & Kraut Mac & Chez Greenbeans Pears	23 Navy Beans w/Ham Spinach Cornbread Cake	24 Turkey Dressing/Gravy Carrots Cake Salad Bar	25 Cheese Burgers Tom. Lett. Chips Jell-O	26 Scrambled Eggs Ham Biscuit	27
28	29 Chicken Salad Sandwich Pork n Beans Pudding	30 Meatloaf Mashed pot./Gravy Peas n Carrots Cobbler	31	NOT GOING TO BE HOME CALL US @ 405-275-4030 EXT. 169 OR NOTIFY YOUR DRIVER		

Drive Responsibly this St. Patrick's Day

Designate a Sober Driver Before the Party Begins

Keep the streets safe this St. Patrick's Day by drinking responsibly and designating a sober driver before heading to the local parade or pub.

Statistics from the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration show that over the past five years, 851 people lost their lives in motor vehicle crashes during the St. Patrick's Day holiday. Out of that number, 327 were killed in crashes that involved a drunk driver or motorcycle rider (operator) with a blood alcohol concentration of .08 or higher.

St. Patrick's Day is supposed to be a time to celebrate Irish heritage and gather with friends, but it can quickly end in tragedy due to impaired driving. If you plan on drinking, don't rely on luck to keep you safe or to keep you out of trouble. Be responsible and take appropriate precautions.

The following tips are recommended:

- Plan a safe way home before your celebrations begin;
- If you plan to get a ride home with someone else, designate a sober driver before any drinking begins;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation so you are sure to get home safely;;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, don't hesitate to contact your local law enforcement;
- And remember, if you know someone who is about to drive or ride their motorcycle while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

Driving impaired or riding with someone who is impaired is an extremely risky thing to do. If you plan on using alcohol, plan ahead and look out for your friends too. Remember, friends don't let friends drive drunk.

According to NHTSA research, impaired driving remains one of America's deadliest problems. In 2007, 41,059 people nationwide were killed in motor vehicle crashes. Out of that number 12,998 people were killed in traffic crashes that involved at least one driver or motorcycle rider (operator) with a blood alcohol concentration (BAC) of .08 or higher. To learn more, please visit www.StopImpairedDriving.org. Or www.nhtsa.gov



Foster Parents Needed!!!

Can you open your home and heart for a foster child? Foster parents provide a temporary, safe home for children in crisis. Foster parents are partners with child welfare workers, lawyers and judges. It is not for everyone but if you have it in your heart - we need you.

- Can you love and care for a child who comes from a difficult background?
- Can you help a child develop a sense of belonging?
- Are you secure in yourself & your parenting Skills?
- Can you maintain a positive attitude toward a child's parents?
- **Can you love with all your heart & then let go?**

Many children need a loving home and a family to help them through a very tough time. Please think about it and talk with your family before you become a foster home. They all need safe, supportive environments!

If you find yourself and your family interested in Foster Care, please contact Melissa Lopez
405-275-4030 ext. 166.



Parenting Class

Every Wednesday evening

For the next 8 weeks

6:00 pm to 8:00 PM

At the AST Complex

2025 S. Gordon Cooper Drive

Shawnee, OK 74801

Basement of Building #3

Baby sitting provided * Snacks provided

LITTLE AXE AREA

Every Thursday

MARCH 19, 2009 TO MAY 21, 2009

10:00 A.M. TO 12:00

LITTLE AXE RESOURCE CENTER

Call Jackie Denny at (405)275-4030 ext. 195
For more information

Classes are free to ast enrolled members and parents
of AST enrolled members.
\$50.00 for non-ast enrolled members
(Payment arrangement can be made)

Mother receives new home, new baby

By LaVerne Douglas

Melinda Ferrell receives a new house 18 hours before the birth of her son Ethan.

Gov. Scott Miller presented the keys to Melinda on Feb. 10. He congratulated her family on the new house and the impending arrival of their baby. He said he hopes they enjoy their home. Ethan was born the following day.

"The day they gave us the trailer my husband (Jeff) decided he would make a little joke and said it was sunshine yellow on the outside with polka dot furniture and tweed carpet," Melinda said. "At first I thought we were talking about the '60s."

"When I saw it come up it was just amazing – it was great, everything was clean and nice – and to turn around and get the keys and know that the next day you are going to have a little one in your arms it was very nice."

Melinda said she read in the Absentee Shawnee tribal newsletter the Office of Environmental Health and Engineering had trailers that were being moved from Hope, Ark., for tribal citizens to purchase. She and her husband decided to apply to see if they qualified. When they received the news they were eligible she said they were excited and then they found out in May she was pregnant, which made everything all the more exciting.

The Ferrell's new house is one of the unused mobile homes provided from the Post Katrina Emergency Management Agency and the Department of Housing and Urban Development through a reimbursement payment plan with the Absentee Shawnee Tribe. Kenny Jones and Dennis Burks of the OEH&E helped the family with the paperwork that secured them the house. Melinda said she would like to thank the OEH&E and Kenny and Dennis are

"awesome."

"It was great and fun," said Melinda's 7-year-old daughter Alyssa. "It's a wonderful house."

Melinda said Alyssa likes the idea of having her own room and she sings in the bath tub. Alyssa said she loves to sing Hannah Montana songs because Hannah Montana sings "really good." When asked who she would like to thank Alyssa's response was "Hannah Montana."

For more information about purchasing a mobile home call the Absentee Shawnee Tribe OEH&E at (405) 214-4235..



Pictured Gov Scott Miller presenting Melinda with her keys to her new home.

"Hi-Ke-Si-Nwi-To-Wa?"

Do you know how to speak Shawnee?

Come one, come all fluent Speakers!

Nominate a fluent speaker of the Shawnee LANGUAGE

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Phone: _____ Age _____

Please mail or return this form to the office of the tribal Representative Alecia Onzawah.

The deadline for the nominations will need to be turned in by Thursday, April 9, 2009.

Those persons who are fluent speakers of the Shawnee Language that have been nominated will be honored during a community dinner held on April 25, 2009 at the the Tecumseh Square at 2 p.m.

Sponsored by Cultural Preservation Department



SERVICES AVAILABLE TO YOU



Little Axe Clinic • Dental Arts Clinic
 15702 E. Hwy 9
 Norman, Oklahoma 73026
 Phone: (405) 447-0300 Fax: (405) 447-2250

Clinic Operating Hours
 Monday thru Friday 8:00 a.m. - 5:00 p.m.
 Weekends/Federal Holidays Closed

* Clinic and Pharmacy will be closed the 3rd Wednesday of each month from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

Accepting All SoonerCare Patients

Services Available Include:

- Medical
- Laboratory
- Ultrasound
- X-ray
- Behavioral Health



For an appointment,
 please call 405-878-5850.

Shawnee Clinic
 2029 S. Gordon Cooper Drive
 Shawnee, Oklahoma



Operated by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe



**BUILDING
 BLOCKS**



CHILD DEVELOPMENT CENTER

AN ABSENTEE SHAWNEE ENTERPRISE
 4000 N. KICKAPOO
 SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA 74804
 (405) 878-0633

Accepting children between 6 weeks to 12 years of age.
 DHS Licensed • 2 Star Facility

The A.S.T. Child Care Subsidy program is now serving ALL Native American families who qualify within the C.C.D.F. guidelines with the Child Care Certificate program. If you know families in need of assistance, please refer them to us. If you are unsure if you February qualify, please call me at (405) 878-0633. I look forward to helping families receive quality care for their children!

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE HOUSING AUTHORITY
 107 N. KIMBERLY ~ SHAWNEE, OK 74801
 405.273.1050 ~ FAX 405.275.0678



Available Housing Programs:

- Mutual Help/Homeownership
- Low Rent
- Homeowner/Homebuyer Maintenance Program
- Down Payment Assistance

Call or come by the Absentee Shawnee Housing Authority offices for an application or more information about our current programs.

Priority is given to Absentee Shawnee Tribal members.

PHARMACY NEWS

ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBAL PHARMACY
 SHAWNEE, OKLAHOMA

The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Pharmacy (Shawnee Location) can fill prescriptions for enrolled tribal citizens only.

The Absentee Shawnee Tribal Clinic Pharmacy in Little Axe can fill prescriptions for tribal citizens written by Physicians not located at a Tribal Clinic under the following circumstances:

1. The prescription is for an Absentee Shawnee Tribal citizen who has an established chart at the Little Axe Clinic.
2. The prescription is on the formulary of approved medications and stocked in the pharmacy.

The following are a few tips to help us deliver pharmacy services to you more efficiently;

- ✓ Present insurance cards each time you pick up or drop off a prescription.
- ✓ Keep us informed of all changes in address, phone number and other contact information.
- ✓ Let the Pharmacy staff know if the prescription is going to be picked up or needs to be delivered.
- ✓ If you have any questions concerning your prescription please feel free to call and talk to our Pharmacist. They are here to assist you with your pharmaceutical needs.

**Don't let high fuel cost keep
your family cold this winter.
Let us help...**



**Now taking applications for
L.I.H.E.A.P.- HEATING cost.
and
Tribal Energy Assistance Program**

All applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and criteria which is approved by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

**Department of Social Services
(405) 878-4723 or (405) 275-1468
Annette Wilson, Social Services**

Office of Environmental Health & Engineering

• **Tribal Housing Improvements Application**

The Tribal Housing Improvement Program's goal is providing sanitary, safe, and decent housing for its members by utilizing the following criteria to select the most "in need" tribal members with homes that are in disrepair but are still suitable for rehabilitation. All applicants must meet the eligibility requirements and criteria which is approved by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe.

THIP list all applicants by a priority list:

- a. Handicapped/Disabled and Elderly
- b. Income
- c. Family Size/Overcrowded Living Conditions
- d. Condition of Home

Other Programs available:

- **Sanitation Facilities Assistance Program**
- **Pest Control Program**

Applications need to be completed and all necessary documents attached before the application will be processed.

Applications are available online on the website: www.astribe.com.

Submit completed application to:

Office of Environmental Health & Engineering
Absentee Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma
2025 S. Gordon Cooper Dr.
Shawnee, Ok 74801

Education Department

The following are current programs administered by the Absentee Shawnee Tribe Education Department:

- ◆ Academic (K-12) Program: assists with academic related expenses, and a portion of funds can be used for school-related athletic program expenses.
- ◆ Zahn Program: established from a trust fund, program can help with some graduation expenses, and awards two (2) incentives: one for GED recipients and one for High School graduates.
- ◆ Job Training Adult Education Program: funds for vocational training at accredited vocational institutions.
- ◆ Higher Education: Education Incentive Award Program: funds for undergraduate degrees, one associates or bachelors degree, at any accredited college or university.
- ◆ Graduate Scholarship Program: funds for one master's degree or one doctoral degree, and can fund for one graduate admissions test.

For more information, please call Tresha Spoon
at (405) 275-4030 ext. 121 or 1-800-256-3341
or email to tresham@astribe.com

AST/EOC Tech contract courses still available:



The Absentee Shawnee Tribe has an agreement with Eastern Oklahoma County Technology Center to offer courses for tribal members and employees. More information is available on the tribe's website at www.astribe.com, click on the link Adult Career Development. No on-line courses are covered in the contract. All courses are campus-based courses only. A catalog of spring 2009 courses can be found at www.eoctech.org. The contract covers tuition and books, additional supplies required for the courses are the responsibility of the tribal member. Eligible courses are short-term courses, no full-time programs. This contract covers up to \$6,000.00 worth of tuition and books for tribal members, once this amount is depleted the agreement ends.

For tribal members interested in taking a course, the application is available for download or a copy can be picked up at the Education Department. Tribal members need to make an appointment to meet with the Education Director, Tresha Spoon, to complete the application process. Please bring your completed application and a copy of your tribal enrollment card.



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE
OF INDIANS OF OKLAHOMA
2025 S. GORDON COOPER DR.
SHAWNEE, OK 74801

PRSRT
FIRST CLASS MAIL
U.S. Postage Paid
Permit No. 434
Shawnee, OK 74801

AST Easter Egg Hunt

Saturday - April 11, 2009

10:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

AST Complex



2009 TRIBAL PHONE NUMBERS

Tribal Complex	(405) 275-4030
or	1-800 256-3341
OEP	(405) 273-9966
OEH & E	(405) 214-4235
Building Blocks	(405) 878-0633
Health Programs	(405) 878-4702
or	1-877-878-4702
Little Axe Clinic	(405) 447-0300
Shawnee Clinic	(405) 878-5850
Shawnee Pharmacy	(405) 878-5859
LA Resource Center	(405) 364-7298
or	(405) 364-7569
LA Cultural Center	(405) 447-3372
AST Police	(405) 275-3200
or	(405) 275-3432
AS Housing Authority	(405) 273-1050
Thunderbird Casino	(405) 360-9270
Or	1-800-259-LUCK
AST Media Dept	(405) 598-1279
AST Media Dept	Fax(405) 598-1294

Attention Tribal Citizens
White Turkey Band Meeting
March 28, 2009
2:00 p.m.

Horseshoe Bend
Community Center



ABSENTEE SHAWNEE TRIBE OF OKLAHOMA Current Job Openings:

Current Open Positions
<http://www.astribe.com/Employment.html>
(Job descriptions will be available online)

- Gaming Commission - Surveillance Technician
- Supreme Court Tribal Judge
- Coordinator Tribal Youth Program (Family Services)
- ICW Director (Indian Child Welfare)
- Realty Specialist
- IT Analyst- MIS